



Uncle Wiggily's Adventures

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UNCLE WIGGILY WENT WADING IN THE MUD PUDDLE. THE GOAT AND MONKEY BOYS HID HIS SHOES FOR A JOKE. BUT JUST SEE WHAT HAPPENED AFTER THAT. OH, MY!

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 Pictured by LANG CAMPBELL



One day, when the early spring rains had made some lovely puddles of muddy water in Woodland, Uncle Wiggily saw some of the animal boys and girls in wading. As he watched them, Billie Wagtail, the goat chap, said to Jacko Kinkytail, the monkey chap: "Wouldn't it be fun if we could get Uncle Wiggily in wading, and then we could yell that the Skeezicks was coming?" Jacko wanted to know what fun that would be. "Why," spoke Billie, "before we yell that the Skee is coming, we'll hide Uncle Wiggily's shoes!"



"It will be a good joke on Uncle Wiggily to hide his shoes, and then yell that the Skeezicks is coming," said the monkey boy. "But he won't believe us unless he sees the bad chap." Billie said that would be easy. "We'll make a scare-crow of a Skeezicks out of some tree branches and our caps," Billie told Jacko. "Come on, let's get Uncle Wiggily's shoes now. Leave ours where they are." So while Uncle Wiggily was teaching Jennie Chipmunk to wade in the nice mud puddle, Jacko and Billie sneaked over to the bunny's new shoes.



While Uncle Wiggily was having a good time in the mud puddle, teaching Jennie Chipmunk to wade, Jacko and Billie, the monkey and goat boys, took the bunny gentleman's yellow shoes and hid them behind a bush. Then Billie and Jacko made a make-believe Skeezicks out of a tree branch and some other things. "When we sneak up, with this, and howl like the Skee after Uncle Wiggily's souse, he'll run out fast," bleated Billie. "And when he can't find his shoes—Oh! he'll get so excited as never was," Jacko said.



"Now our make-believe Skeezicks is all done," said Jacko to Billie. "Yes," answered the goat boy. "We'll hide behind it and carry it toward the wading mud puddle. We'll holler like the Skee hollers for Uncle Wiggily's souse. Then he'll run for his shoes and they won't be there. Oh, what a joke it will be!" Uncle Wiggily, knowing nothing of what was going to happen, had made a sail boat for Jennie. All of a sudden the little chipmunk girl and the other children saw the pretended Skee coming along and they yelled.



No sooner had Billie and Jacko approached the mud puddle with the make-believe Skeezicks, and had howled as that bad chap used to howl when he was after Uncle Wiggily's souse, than, all at once the REAL Skeezicks came hopping along. "Ah, ha!" said he. "Here's where I get a lot of shoes, as well as the bunny gentlemen's souse!" The children rushed out of the pond, and the boys dropped their make-believe Skeezicks. Then along came Mr. Stubtail, the bear gentleman, with Uncle Wiggily's old shoes he had been mending.



As soon as the Skeezicks had gathered up in his skinny paws all the shoes of the animal children, he started to run away with them. "I'll hide these," howled the Skee, "and then I'll come back and get Uncle Wiggily's souse. I wonder where Uncle Wiggily's shoes are? I don't see them." As the Skee ran away the animal children felt very badly because their shoes were taken. Billie and Jacko were sorry they played that trick. Uncle Wiggily put on his old shoes. Mr. Stubtail took a club and cried: "Let's chase the Skee!"



"Are you all ready, Uncle Wiggily?" cried Mr. Stubtail, the nice bear gentleman shoe-mender. "If you are we'll chase the bad Skeezicks and make him give back the children's shoes." Uncle Wiggily, having put on his old shoes which the bear gentleman had brought, said he was ready. Away they started after the bad Skeezicks, who ran so fast he dropped one or two shoes. "He has my new ones, I guess," said Uncle Wiggily, as he threw stones at the bad chap. "Well, we'll soon catch him," roared Mr. Stubtail.



After a short race Uncle Wiggily and Mr. Stubtail caught up to the bad Skeezicks. Uncle Wiggily wasn't afraid of the skinny chap now, when the bear gentleman was with him. Taking the Skeezicks by the back of his neck, Mr. Stubtail shook the unpleasant creature until he dropped every shoe he had taken from the wading pool. "Pick them up and we'll take them back to the children, if you please," said Mr. Stubtail. "I will," said the bunny gentleman. "But the funny-part of it is I can't find my new shoes! Where are they?"



After Mr. Stubtail had nearly shaken the liver-pin out of the Skeezicks, he let the bad chap go, over the hills to the pourhouse. Then the bear gentleman and Uncle Wiggily carried the animal children's shoes back to them. Billie the goat and Jacko the monkey brought Uncle Wiggily's new shoes out from behind the bush they had hidden them. After the boys had tossed the make-believe Skeezicks into the mud puddle and all the shoes were on again, Mr. Stubtail laughed and said to Jacko and Billie: "That was some joke!"